Facilities to increase Foodgrains Production

602. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed target of 180 million tonnes of foodgrains production in the country for the Crop year 1990-91; and

(b) if so, what are the facilities provided by Government to the farmers for the increased output in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The target of foodgrains production for 1990-91, has been fixed at 176.5 million tonnes.

The targetted production is envisaged to be achieved by increasing the productivity levels through the larger coverage of area under high yielding variety seeds and propagation of adoption of improved production technology with increased use and efficient management of inputs.

To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in popularising the cultivation of high yielding varieties and in propagating the adoption of improved production technology, various crops development schemes are being implemented. Some of the important schemes are:

(i) Minikit Programme of Rice, Wheat and Maize & Millets,

(ii) Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD).

(iii) Special Foodgrains Production Programme—Wheat,

(iv) Special Foodgrain Production Programme—Maize & Millets,

(v) National Pulses Development Project (NPDP), and

(vi) Shallow Tube-well/Dugwell Programme.

Through the above mentioned schemes, assistance is being provided to the farmers for inputs like seeds, micro-nutrients, farm implements, plant protection equipment pesticides etc. These are provided to the farmers to a limited quantity on 50% subsidy in the identified districts. Under IPRD, assistance is also provided to the small and marginal farmers for the purchase of powers tillers in the form of subsidy limited to Rs. 10,000 /- per power tiller. This is being done with the objectives to stimulate the farmers for using the inputs in required quantities.

Besides the assistance on inputs, field demonstrations are also being organised on improved production technology on the crops like Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals and Pulses for the transfer of technology.

Status of Industry to Agriculture

603. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to give status of industry to agriculture;

(b) whether the High Power Committee appointed by Government under Bhanu Pratap Singh submitted its report in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the main features of the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The High Powered Committee on Review of Agricultural Policies and Programme has submitted its report on 30 July, 1990. The Committee has made a large number of